

**LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP**

# THE “EYE”

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2003**

## C.E.R.T. and NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a program sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). CERT groups are designed to operate within the area of a disaster situation to provide assistance to emergency First Responders like the fire department or emergency medical technicians. If a disaster, such as a flood or a tornado, occurred in our area the First Responders could quickly become overwhelmed. When roads are obstructed by debris or flooding, communications are disrupted, or if there is a high volume of calls for help it could take significant time for emergency help to reach some areas. A CERT group would be trained to first take care of themselves and then help others in their community.

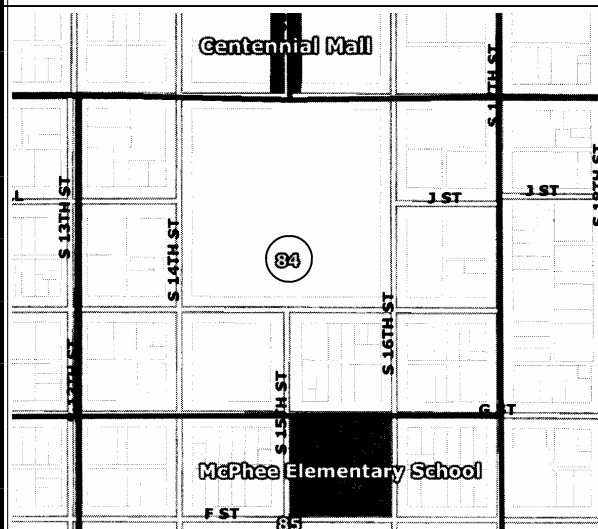
CERT training consists of 21 hours of classes. There is no cost to the student and you will receive a starter emergency pack. Classes are usually held over a weekend or during several week nights. CERT instructors are often professional emergency responders, including fire fighters, EMT, and law enforcement personnel. Classes prepare participants to be able to:

- check for hazards in their own home and neighborhood
- prepare for a disaster
- work as a team to do basic fire suppression
- conduct triage and perform basic life saving techniques
- employ light search and rescue techniques



CERT class participants learn “cribbing” - a light search and rescue technique

Neighborhood Watch groups are a good match for CERT training. They are already organized as a group and generally live close together so that they could respond efficiently to a disaster in their area. The Lancaster County Emergency Management office is the Nebraska CERT administrator. If you want more information or have a group organized to participate in the training you can call CERT at (402) 441-7441, or you can e-mail to CERT @ci.lincoln.ne.us.



RD #84, the State Capitol area, has a boundary of “K” Street, 17th Street, “G” Street, and 13th Street. Other RDs will vary in size.

## **LINCOLN POLICE USAGE OF REPORTING DISTRICTS**

The Lincoln Police Department divides the city into five team areas. Smaller divisions are then made within those team areas and are called Reporting Districts - or RDs. Each one is assigned a number which facilitates using a computer to track activity throughout the city. Neighborhood Watch uses these areas to help send out information where it is needed. Each week crime statistics are followed and when any specific RD shows that three or more crimes have occurred there the Neighborhood Watch group coordinators within that RD will receive a letter advising about what is happening. If the type of crime occurring is sexual in nature only one incident has to occur for a letter to be sent. If your group receives a letter regarding larcenies from cars, or burglaries, the crime may not have happened specifically in your neighborhood but could have occurred within a several block radius. The vicinity is small enough, however, that it behooves everyone in the area to be notified.

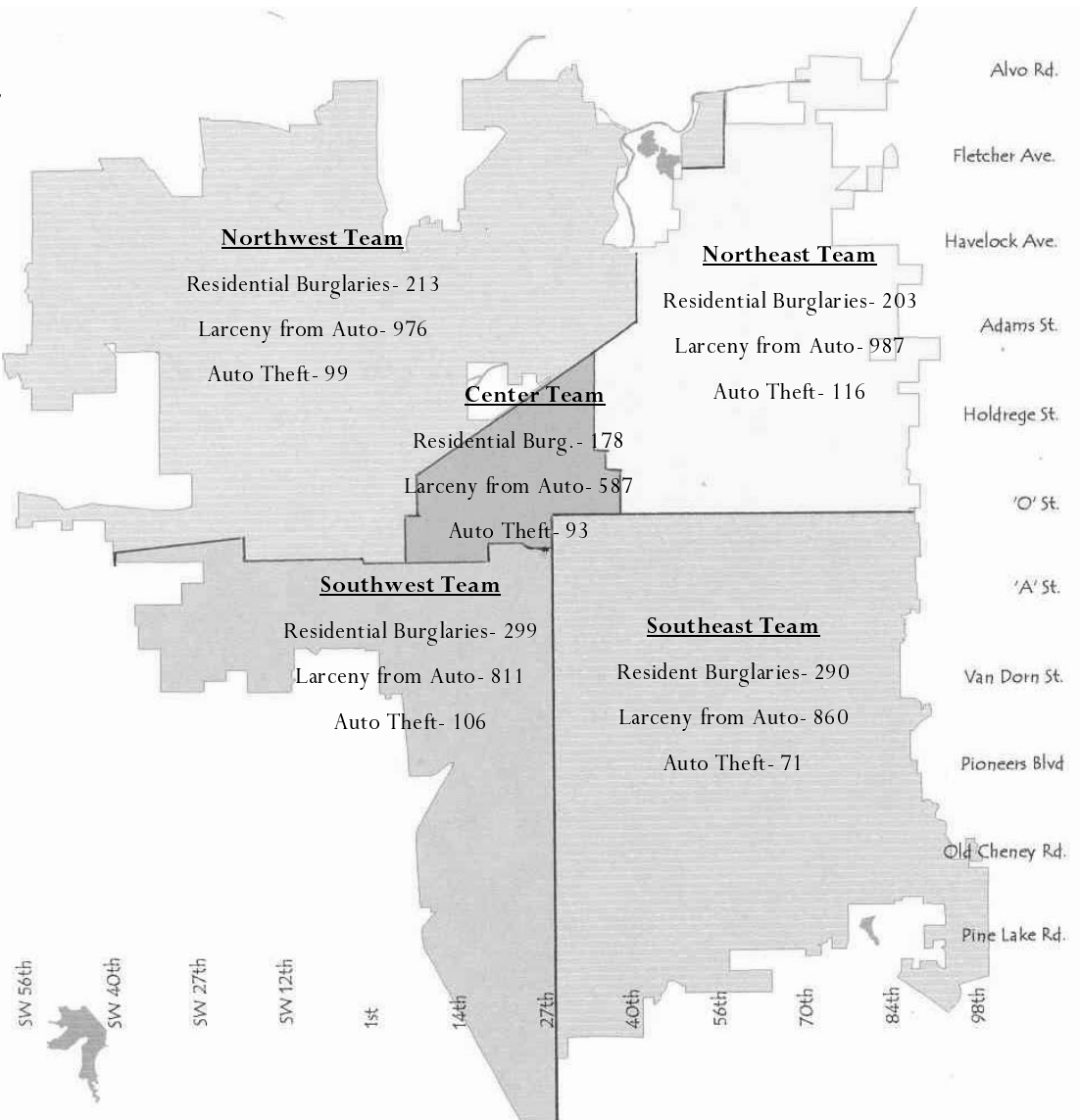
The map at the left shows an example of an RD area.

**SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2003 and 9-20-2003***For additional information, statistics, or crime maps refer to the LPD web-site at: [www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police)***STATISTICAL OVERVIEW**

During the past three months there has been an increase in the number of larcenies from vehicles. This could possibly be attributed to the summer schedule where there is less structured time and curfews. The biggest part of this problem though continues to be the availability of high dollar property (cameras, golf clubs, purses, briefcases, checkbooks, credit cards, etc.) left visible in cars. The other problem is that too many people leave their vehicles unlocked and/or open.

Residential burglaries remain consistent. Similar to the larceny problem the opportunity that is left by residents provides the criminals the chance to complete these crimes. The biggest number of burglaries occurs at those homes where the garage door is left open, and where doors and windows are left unlocked.

Our slogan continues to be that if you want to prevent crime you have to deny the criminal the opportunity to commit such actions.

**TEAM FORUM MEETINGS**

Thank you to everyone who took their time to attend the annual forum meeting in their team area. These meetings are an excellent way to keep in touch with what the police patrol team in your neighborhood is doing. It is also one of the tools that the police department uses to determine if we need to change the ways we do things. There was an average of about 50 people attending each meeting (this is a great response).

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

All the Neighborhood Watch groups who participated in National Night Out should also be commended. There was an outstanding number of neighbors who got together and joined with police officers to enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun. The activities were very positive and even received considerable attention from our local news media. These types of gatherings are beneficial even when they are spontaneous and self motivated. Maintaining a spirit of community and camaraderie within your own neighborhood is a very important aspect of Neighborhood Watch.

**HOLIDAY TIME**

As the holidays approach, remember to use good crime prevention techniques. Lock your vehicle and stow valuables out of sight. Keep your home secure: garage closed, doors and windows locked. If you are leaving home for an extended period, let a trusted neighbor or relative know so they can keep an eye on your home. Some good sense planning ahead of time will help you avoid becoming a victim.



## BOO AT THE ZOO

Come see us at the zoo for a **SAFE & FUN** environment to trick or treat in. Boo at the Zoo is the Folsom Children's Zoo & Botanical Gardens annual fundraiser to help feed the animals during the winter months when the zoo is closed.

**WHEN:** Sunday, October 26 through Thursday, October 30, 2003

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**ADMISSION:** \$3.00 for non members, no cost for families with current membership. However, everyone who will be trick or treating will have to purchase an official KLKN treat bag for \$2.00. You can also ride the train for additional \$1.00

**PARKING:** At the Zoo (if you get there early) . A FREE Star Tran Shuttle will be provided at the following parking lots:



## VANDALS ROUNDED UP

Early on July 19th, 2003 officers working the Havelock area began to receive numerous calls about vandalisms to vehicles. Some residents found that their car windows had been shot out by BBs. During one report, the victim had mentioned seeing a red four-door car in the area. While Officer Niemeyer was taking another report he observed a similar car that had four juveniles in it. When Officer Niemeyer tried to stop the car the occupants fled on foot. Niemeyer caught the driver while Officer Launa Groves was able to catch one of the passengers. The car was then searched and a BB pistol, BB ammunition and CO2 cartridges were found.

The officers questioned the two individuals that had been caught. One of the suspects confessed to damaging numerous vehicles and implicated three others. The other suspect did not confess but did make several incriminating statements. Officer Schlickbernd continued the investigation and was able to locate the other two suspects. Upon questioning, Schlickbernd was able to obtain a detailed confession from one suspect; the other suspect refused to talk.

Through these officers hard work, and the willingness of neighbors to call in, there was enough evidence and information to arrest all four individuals. Over 190 vandalisms with about \$20,000 in damages were cleared.



Stinson's Ace Hardware - 945 S. 27

Ideal Grocery - 905 S. 27

Antelope Park - North Parking lot

Lincoln High - North Parking Lot.

## CHILD SAFETY SEAT STANDARDS

Nebraska State law currently says that children up to 6-yrs. need to be in a car seat while being transported in a motor vehicle. There is no longer a 40 pound weight limit associated with this law. These laws are provided to increase child safety. Standard restraint equipment in vehicles will not fit or properly protect children in the event of a collision. A booster seat enhances safety and also allows a better vantage point for a child in a vehicle.

If you think your child is ready to move out of a booster seat take the SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. test. If you answer no to any of the questions the child should continue to use a booster:

- Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
- Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the seat?
- Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and the arm?
- Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
- Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?



If you need more information about safety seats you can contact a number of agencies. You can find trained technicians to make sure your seat is installed properly at "1-866-Seat-Check", [www.SeatCheck.org](http://www.SeatCheck.org), [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov), or at [www.nsp.state.ne.us/](http://www.nsp.state.ne.us/).

## ***The "EYE" Neighborhood Watch***

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP  
575 SOUTH 10TH ST.  
LINCOLN NE, 68508

*Return Service Requested*



### **SANTA COP AUCTION**

*The 2003 SANTA COP AUCTION  
will be held Saturday November 22nd  
at the State Fair Grounds Lancaster  
Building.*

*Silent auction: 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*Live auction starts at 2:30 p.m.*

*Please support our efforts to benefit  
children in Lincoln.*

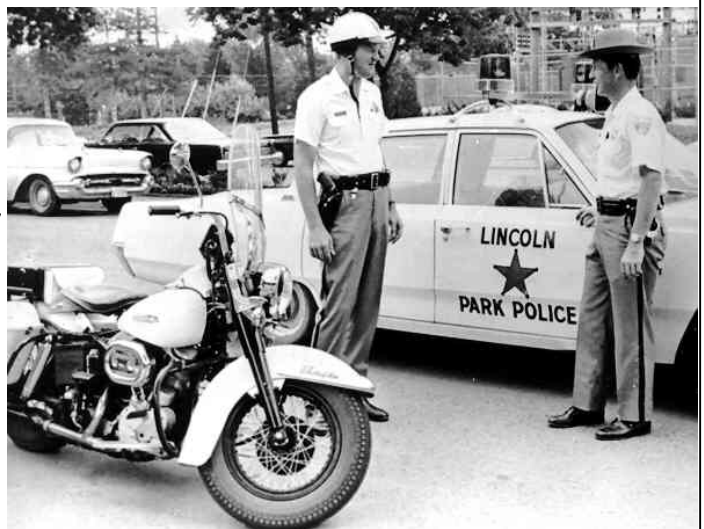
*[www.santacop.org](http://www.santacop.org)*

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST**

Summer has passed with Lincolniters enjoying another full season of activities in the city parks. The Lincoln Police Department currently patrols and enforces municipal ordinances in the 64 city parks and on the extensive network of hiker/biker trails.

Many citizens however, may not be aware of the fact from 1965 to 1976 Lincoln had a separate Park Police force. In 1965, Lincoln had 25 city parks and was experiencing a considerable number of vandalisms involving park equipment. In an effort to curb the vandalism problem and insure safety in the parks, Park Superintendent Don Smith hired four full-time officers. The officers were under the direction of the Park Department although their salary and equipment was similar to regular Lincoln Police officers. Special badges and uniforms identified them as Park Police and their enforcement was limited to the parks.

The Park Police force was merged into the Lincoln Police Department in 1976. Many of the officers accepted the transfer and there are three current members of the department who started their law enforcement careers with the Park Police.



*Lincoln Park Police officers in August 1969 (Journal Star photo)  
Left to right: Officer Leighton Wessel & Officer Don Crawford*